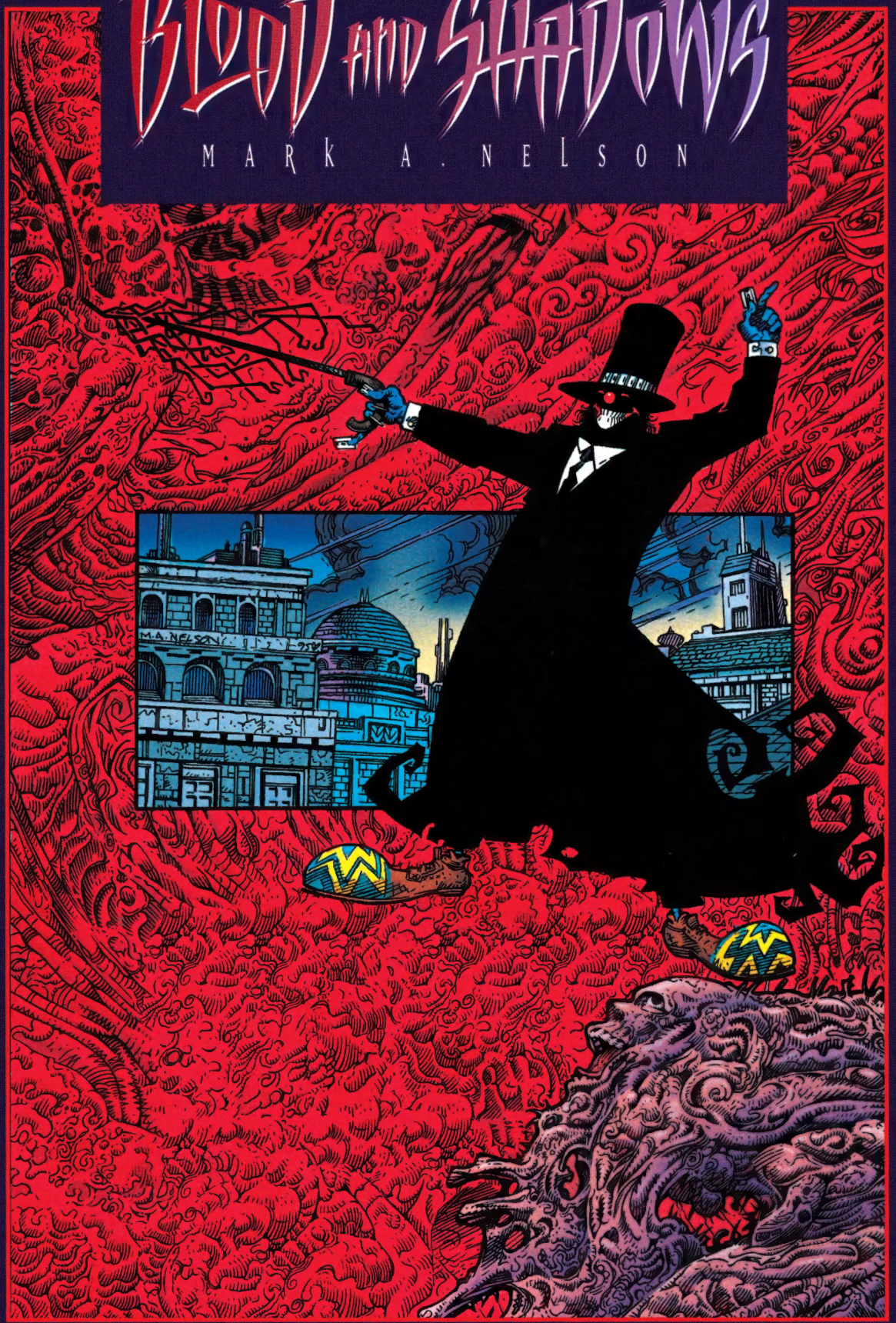
DC COMICS
VERTIGO

JOE R. LANSDALE

BLOOD AND SHADOWS

MARK A. NELSON



BLOOD & SHADOWS

BOOK FOUR

Joe R. Lansdale
writer

Mark A. Nelson
artist

Willie Schubert
letterer

Ray Murtaugh
color artist

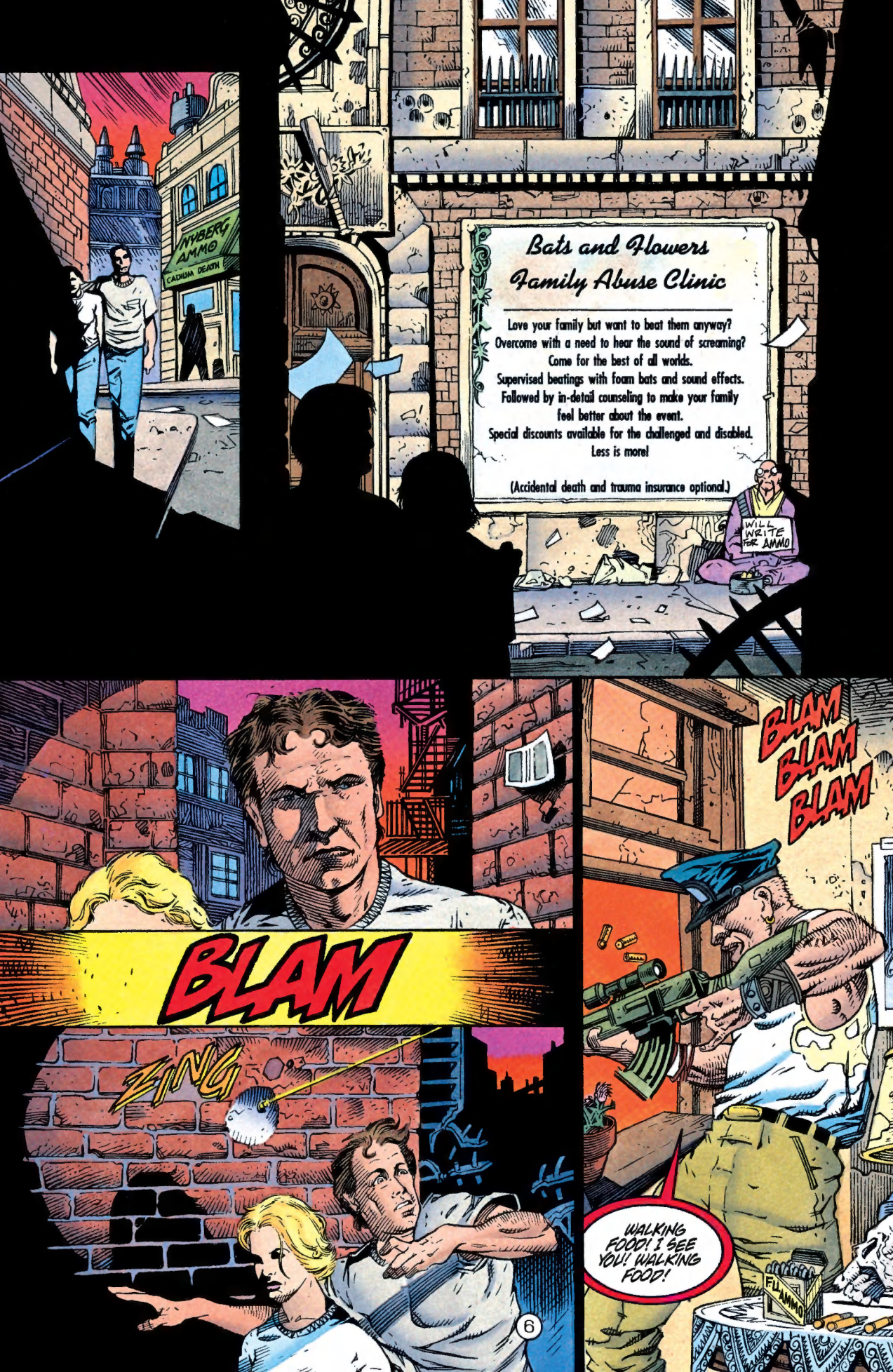
cover by
Nelson w/Murtaugh

DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT SUN TAN MEANT, FRANKIE!
OKAY. WE PLAY IT HIS WAY.

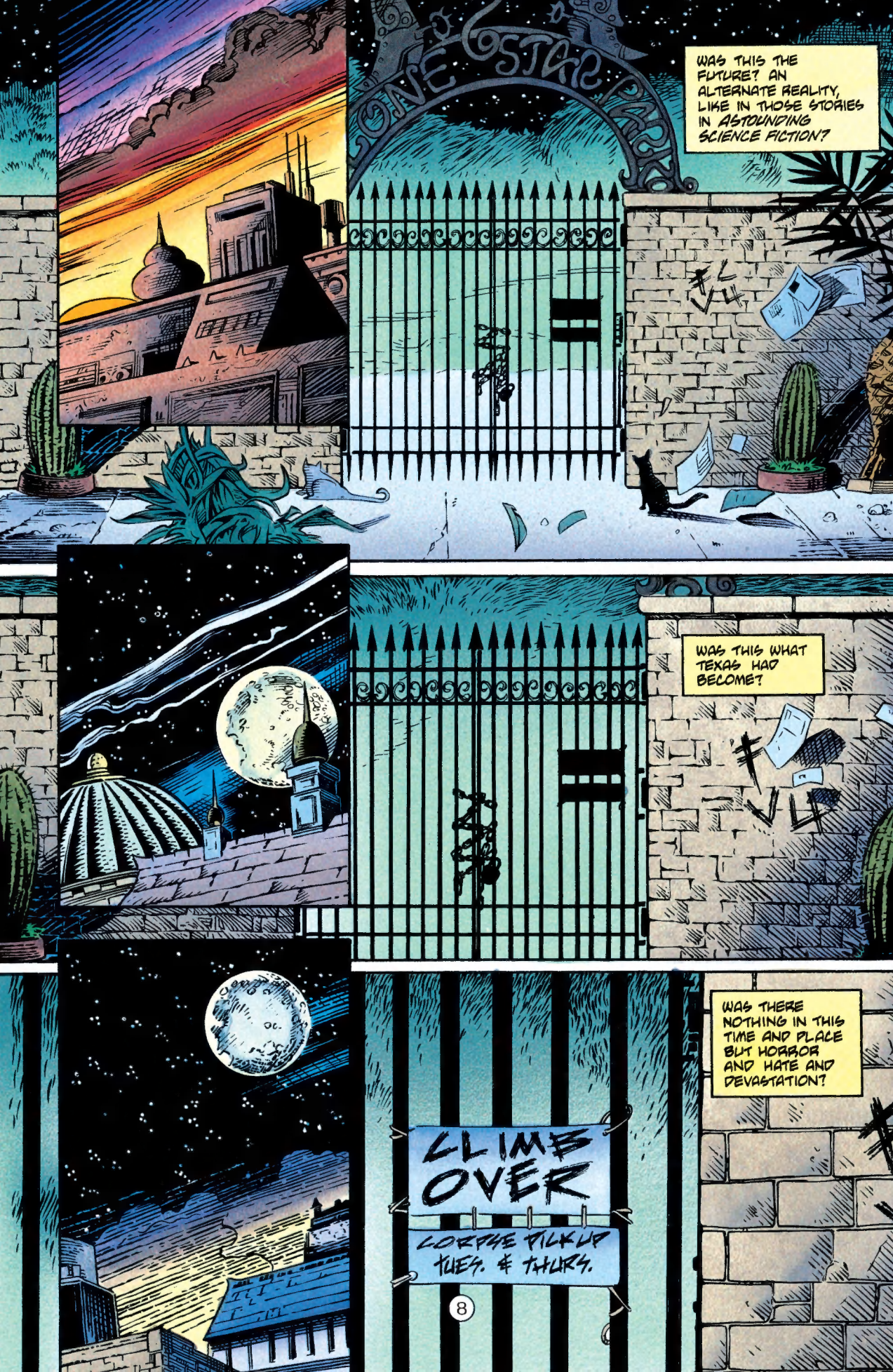
WHAT ABOUT YOU, BRUCEY? WANT SOME TOO?
HEY, NO HARD FEELINGS, SUN TAN.
NO HARD FEELINGS.
THANKS, SWEETIE.
THINK NOTHING OF IT. GUNFIRE IN CLOSE QUARTERS MAKES MY HEAD HURT.

BESIDES, I WANTED TO SEE WHAT YOU HAD IN YOU WHEN YOU WAS RESTED.
THANKS FOR NOT LETTING ME COOK IN THE SUN.
IT'S BEEN SWEET, BUT NOT THAT SWEET.
SO ADIOS.
DON'T LET THE DOOR HIT YOU IN THE ASS ON THE WAY OUT, PODNER.
EXIT
to Hell
to their carrion young minds the battle ground set the table for the feast
RING FOR DEATH
YER DEAD!
SNICK
4

IMAGINE HIM GETTING UPSET OVER THAT OLE, RETARDED GAL. WE WAS FUNNIN' HIM.
HELL, BRUCEY. AIN'T YOU GOT NO GODDAMN ROMANCE ABOUT YOU?
GEE, I DON'T THINK SO.
OUT OF THE TOILET AND INTO THE SEWER.
Leo's GUNS & GUNSHOT Saloon
TOILET DEATH
MaMa Bear's
GUNS POISON & FOOD
AMMO BEER FUEL
MaMa Bear's
EAT WASTE NOT BURGERS
5th & MAIN
LEARN TO KILL IN YOUR FREE TIME
5


IVYBERG AMMO
CADMIA DEATH
Bats and Flowers
Family Abuse Clinic
Love your family but want to beat them anyway?
Overcome with a need to hear the sound of screaming?
Come for the best of all worlds.
Supervised beatings with foam bats and sound effects.
Followed by in-detail counseling to make your family
feel better about the event.
Special discounts available for the challenged and disabled.
Less is more!
(Accidental death and trauma insurance optional.)
WILL WRITE FOR AMMO
BLAM
ZING
BLAM BLAM BLAM
WALKING FOOD! I SEE YOU! WALKING FOOD!
FU AMMO

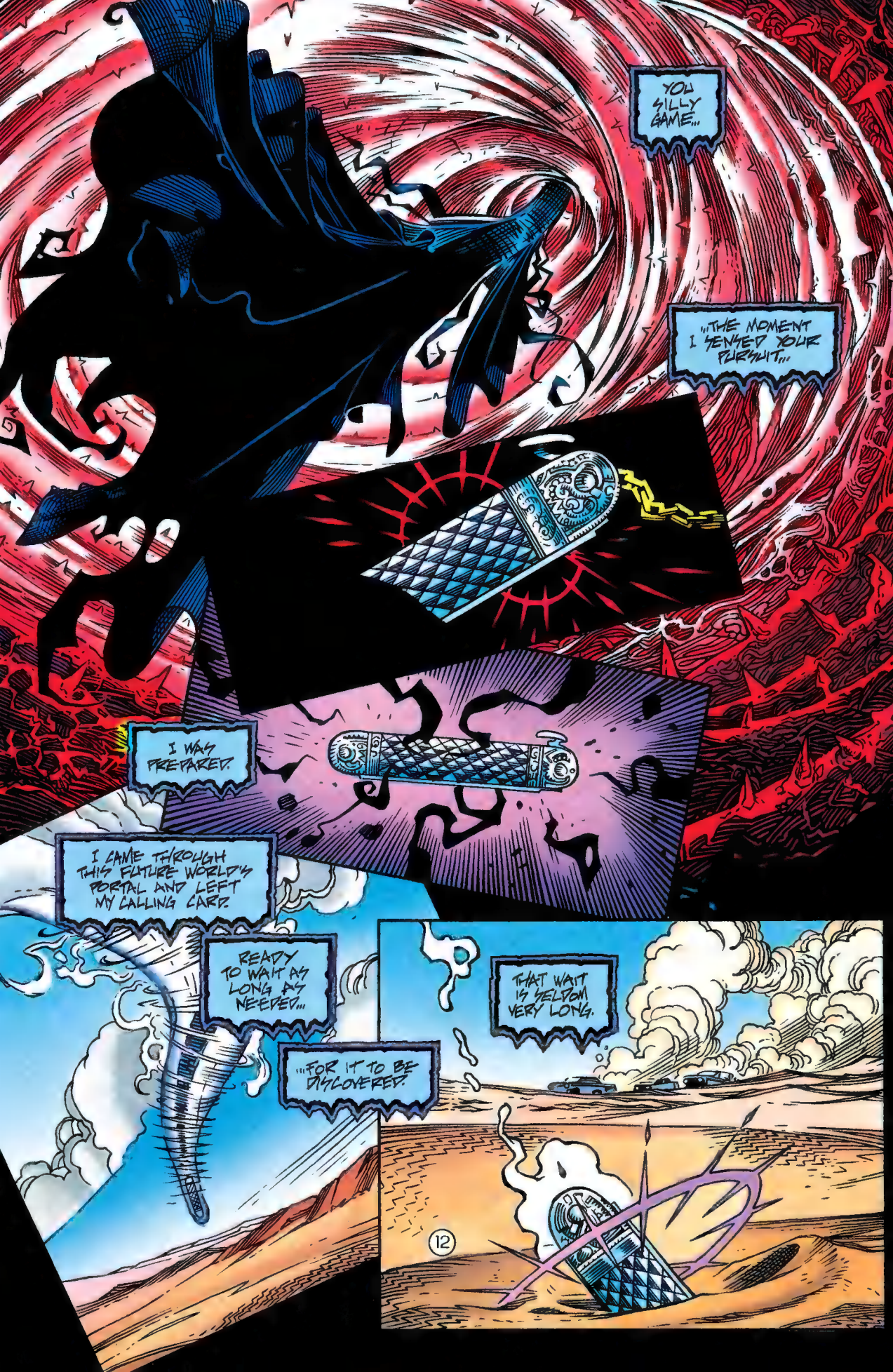
WALKING FOOD!
WALKING FOOD!
MOM
WHERE IN THE HELL WERE WE?
CORN FLAKES
WHERE HAD THE GOD OF THE RAZOR LED ME?
HE
7
AND WHY?


LONE STAR
WAS THIS THE FUTURE? AN ALTERNATE REALITY, LIKE IN THOSE STORIES IN ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION?
WAS THIS WHAT TEXAS HAD BECOME?
WAS THERE NOTHING IN THIS TIME AND PLACE BUT HORROR AND HATE AND DEVASTATION?
CLIMB OVER
CORPSE PICK UP TUES. & THURS.

WAS NOTHING NORMAL?
AND IF THE GOD OF THE RAZOR WERE STILL HERE...
...AND HE MUST BE. THEN...
...WHERE WOULD HE BE...?
...AND WHAT WOULD DISTINGUISH A THING LIKE HIM FROM THE REAL HORRORS OF HUMANITY?
IF EVER HE WAS IN HIS ELEMENT...
...IT WAS NOW.

BUT MY ADVANTAGE WAS...
...THE GOD OF THE RAZOR...
...DIDN'T KNOW...
...I'D FOLLOWED HIM...
...YET, I HAD THE UNCANNY FEELING...
...HE WAS WATCHING ME...
...AND KNEW...
...MY EVERY...

MOVE.
LORRELTO, CHETLY!
I'VE BEEN WAY AHEAD OF YOU ALL ALONG, CHETLY...
...YOU FEMY MORTAL...


YOU SILLY GAME...
"THE MOMENT I SENSED YOUR PURSUIT...
I WAS PREPARED.
I CAME THROUGH THIS FUTURE WORLD'S PORTAL AND LEFT MY CALLING CARD.
READY TO WAIT AS LONG AS NEEDED...
"...FOR IT TO BE DISCOVERED.
THAT WAIT IS SELDOM VERY LONG.
12

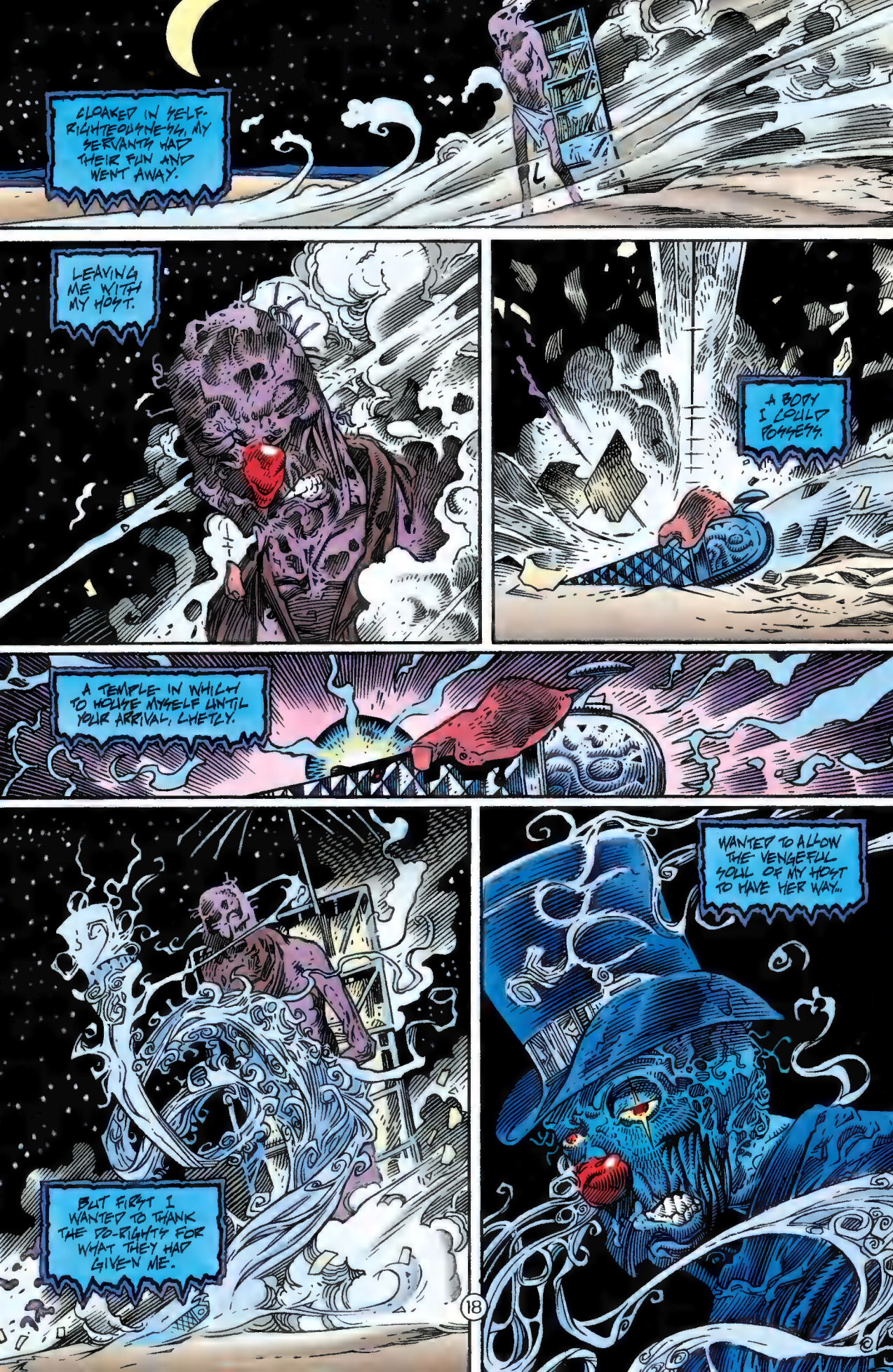
FOR THAT ON WHICH I THRIVE...
...HUMAN IGNORANCE AND GREED...
DO RIGHT
SELDOM FAILS TO GIVE UNTO ME...
DO RIGHT!
...A HAND-DELIVERED HOST.
LOOK AT ONE ELEMENT OF YOUR FOULNESS.
13

GAZE UPON OTHERS.
GAZE ON THE SOURCE OF YOUR FOULNESS.
GAZE ON IT, YOU WHO WERE KNOWN AS SISTER CARRIE, BUT ARE HENCEFORTH KNOWN AS... OOOOO!
DO RIGHT
OOOOOOOOOOHHHHHHHHHHHHH!
YES, THE PAIN OF YOUR ACTIONS, YOUR DEFIANCE OF WHAT'S RIGHT HAVE LED ME TO CURSE, AND CURSES ON ME FOR IT...
...AND MAY I DO RIGHT.

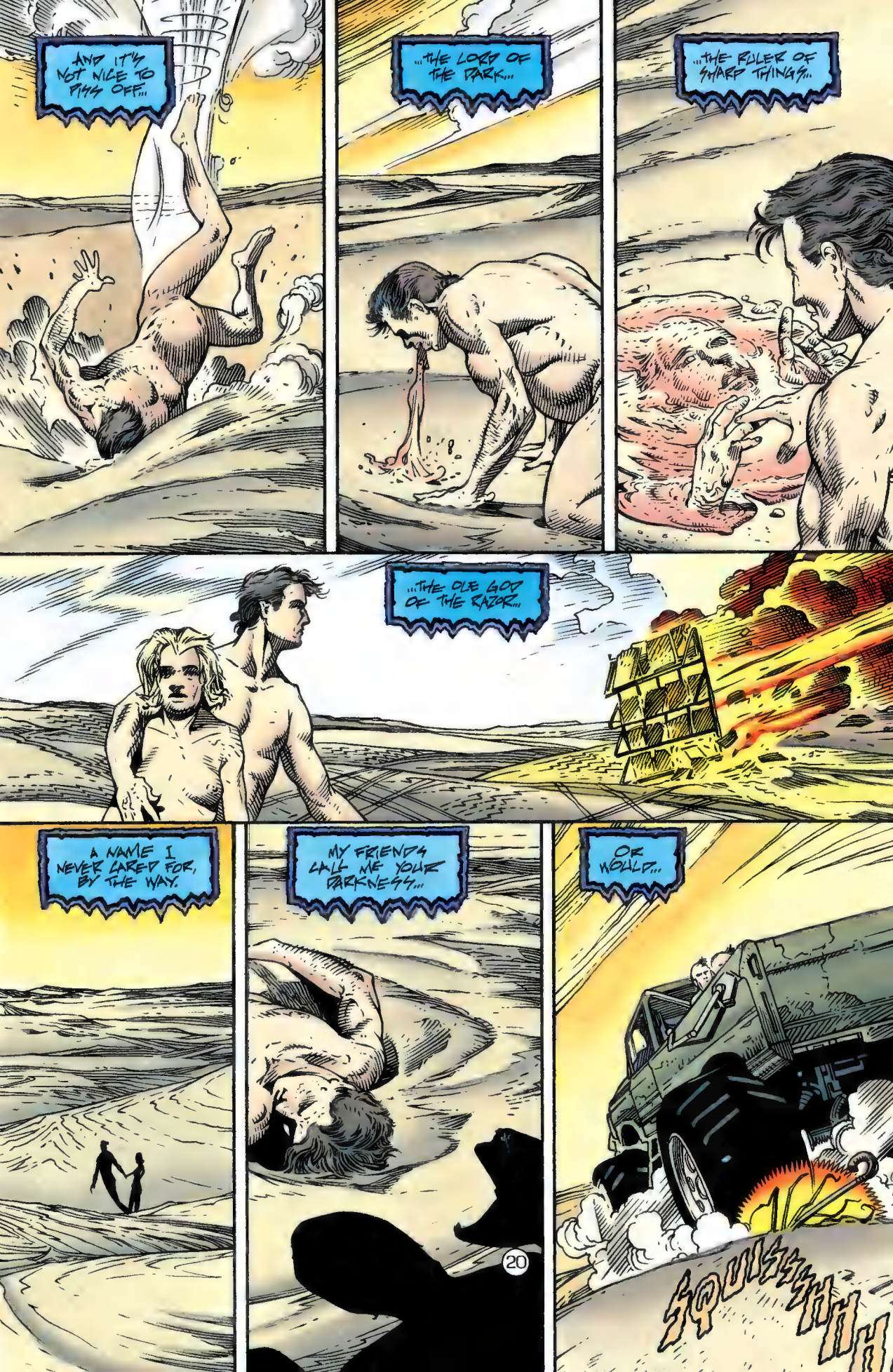
RIGHT! DO RIGHT! DO RIGHT! DO RIGHT! DO RIGHT!
YES! DO RIGHT! MAY I DO RIGHT. MAY WE ALL DO RIGHT.
PREPARE HER! LET HER HAVE THE THINGS SHE LOVES. LET US GIVE THEM TO HER THE WAY SHE DESERVES THEM!
BRING FORTH THE FOUL BOOKS! THE READING THINGS!
15

DRESS HER THE WAY SHE LIKES TO DRESS WHEN SHE READS HER FOUL BOOKS! OH, THE PERVERSION! THE PERVERSION!
LET US SEE NOW HOW YOU ENJOY YOUR FRIVOLITY.
DO RIGHT
MERCY! MERCY! IT COULD HAVE BEEN SEX INSTEAD OF BOOKS AND A CLOWN SUIT! MERCY!
ENJOY YOUR LITTLE PERVERSION, FALLEN WOMAN...
16

...FOR THE VERY LAST TIME.
SKRITCH
DO RIGHT
HERE IS YOUR MERCY.
F. BROWN
AAIIIEEEEEEE
DO RIGHT! DO RIGHT! DO RIGHT! DO RIGH
17


CLOAKED IN SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, MY SERVANTS HAD THEIR FUN AND WENT AWAY.
LEAVING ME WITH MY HOST.
A BODY I COULD POSSESS.
A TEMPLE IN WHICH TO HOUSE MYSELF UNTIL YOUR ARRIVAL, LHETLY.
BUT FIRST I WANTED TO THANK THE DO-RIGHTS FOR WHAT THEY HAD GIVEN ME.
WANTED TO ALLOW THE VENGEFUL SOUL OF MY HOST TO HAVE HER WAY...

...SO THAT I MIGHT ADD HER SOUL TO MY COLLECTION.
AS FOR YOU, CHETLY.
I CAN WALK AWAY-AND YOU WILL COME TO ME...
FOR NOW WE ARE ALWAYS NEAR...
AAAHWOOO-GAAHH
AAAHWOOO-GAAHH
...AND WHOEVER PURSUES ME...
...SUPPOSES THEMSELVES ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH ME...
...PISSES ME OFF.


AND IT'S NOT NICE TO PISS OFF...
...THE LORD OF THE DARK...
...THE RULER OF SHARP THINGS...
...THE OLE GOD OF THE RAZOR...
A NAME I NEVER CARED FOR, BY THE WAY.
MY FRIENDS CALL ME YOUR DARKNESS...
OR WOULD...
SQUISH
20

...IF I HAD ANY.
BOOHHHHHHAAAA
AND I'D CERTAINLY LIKE SOME...
...AND SISTER CARRIE'S DARK LITTLE SOUL IS LEADING ME...

...TO MEET A FEW NOW...

I KNOW THEY'LL BE GLAD TO SEE ME...
EVERYONE'S GLAD TO SEE ME...
I'M JUST A HAPPY KINDA GUY.

SO HAPPY, I STOPPED BY THE PARK TO FEED THE PIGEONS.
MAMA ARDYTH
AND DOGGONE IF MY GOOD PAL CHETLY DIDN'T STROLL BY.
AND MUCH AS I WANTED TO SAY HOWDY...
YOU CAN ONLY DO ONE FUN THING AT A TIME.

DO RIGHT
DO RIGHT
DO Right
...SUCH AS...
...MEETING NEW PEOPLE...
...AND MAKING NEW AND GENUINE...
DO RIGHT
...FRIENDS...
...WHOSE PHYSICAL ACQUAINTANCE WITH ME MAY BRIEF AND TUMULTHOUS...

B 1 2 3 4
...BUT WHOSE SOULFUL VOYAGE INTO MY REALM...
FOUR PLEASE.
DO RIGHT
...LASTS FOR A REAL, REAL LONG TIME...
YES, WE'VE GOT TO DO RIGHT, AND WE'VE--
DO RIGHT
#1. Follow the way of Bubba. The new
B 1 2 3 4
DING
DO RIGH
...GOT TO MAKE THE OTHERS DO RIGHT, BECAUSE...

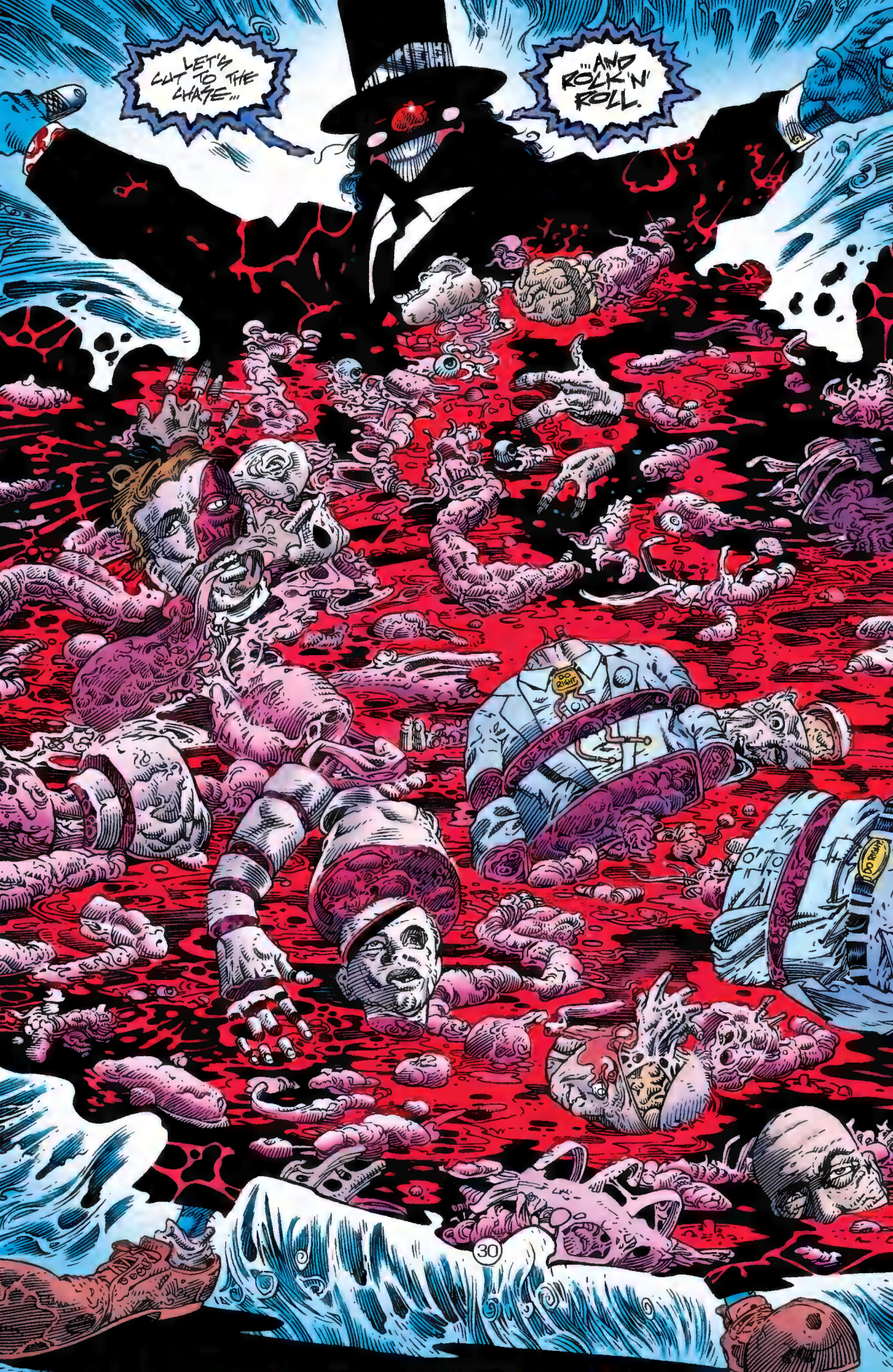
DO RIGHT
HI.
HOWDY!
HOWDY!

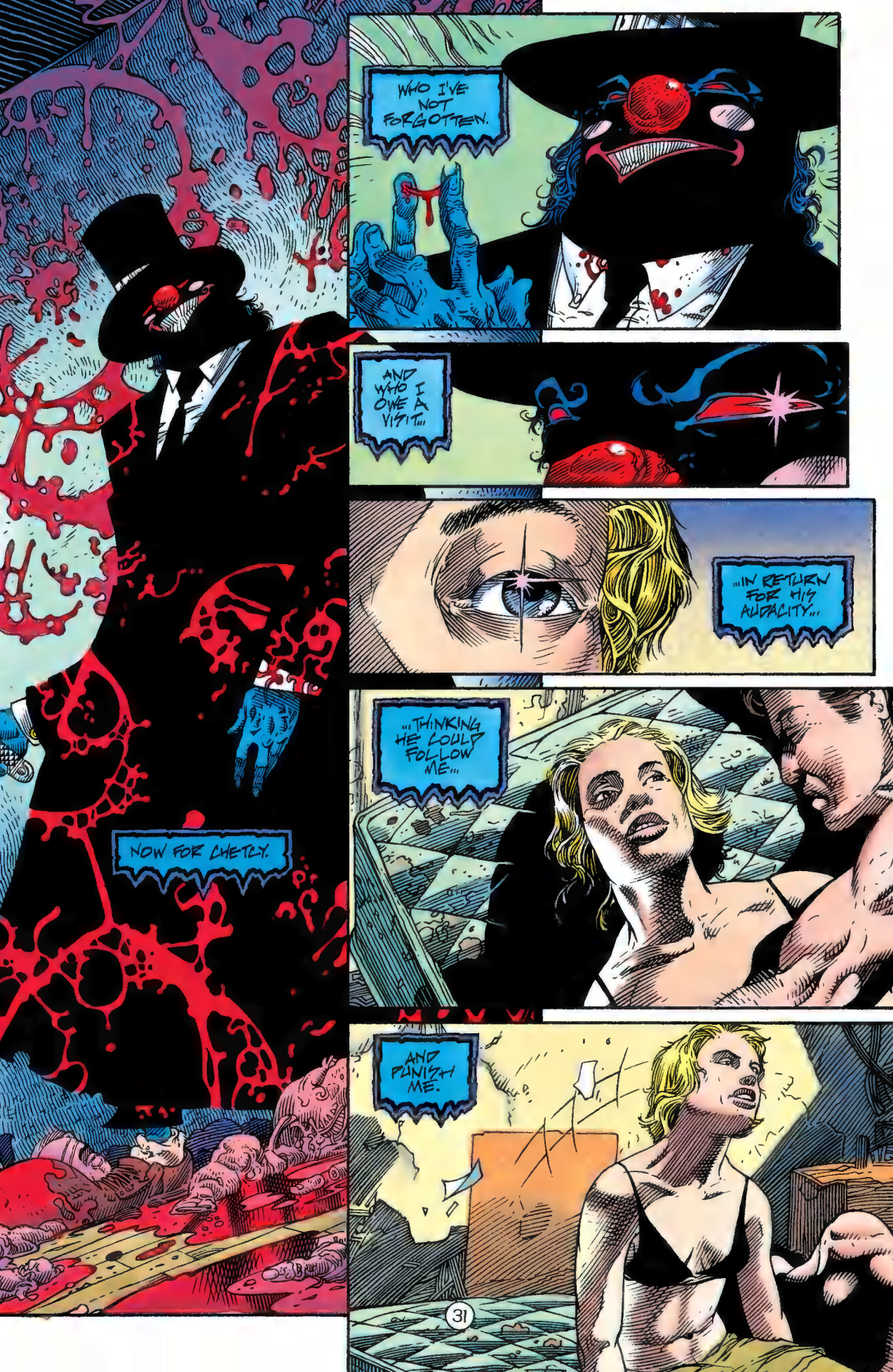
"SISTER CARRIE?
I BELIEVE YOU"
"REFERRED TO ME AS"
"TOOTOO"
BOOKS BY THE MAN AGAIN!
GIANT LIZARD SEEN !!!

NOBODY LEAVES...
...OKAY?
YER DEAD!
BAM BAM BAM
RELAX! IT'S SUN TAN AND THE CHATTERBOX.

I DON'T WANT THAT SONOFABITCH BACK HERE, SWEETIE. I WANT HIM TO HIKE.
YEAH, HE'S GOT A ROTTEN TEMPER.
YOU BOYS STARTED IT. AND...
...BESIDES, I'M THE BOSS...
...AND I LIKE THE WAY OLE SUN TAN FILLS OUT HIS PANTS.
GREAT. HE'S HERE BECAUSE OF HIS PANTS.
I COULD HEAR THEM. I HATED THEM. BUT THESE MERCENARY BASTARDS WERE ALL I HAD.
I WAS LOST. IDA WAS NOWHERE WITHIN A MILLION MILES OF HER BODY.
SHE'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF DEAD. HELL, SHE WAS DEAD.
NOTHING WAS LEFT. NOTHING AT ALL.
EXCEPT VENGEANCE ON THE GOD OF THE RAZOR...

KEEP THAT LINE STRAIGHT.
IT'S GESTALT TIME, BOYS AND GIRLS.
SISTER LARRIE IS OFFERING ME HER SOUL TO GAIN VENGEANCE.
AS IF SHE HAD ANY CHOICE.
AND WHEN I DO A JOB FOR MY HOST...
WELL, I LIKE TO STAY IN GREEDY TRADITION AND OVERDO IT.
NEXT!
ENOUGH OF THIS NAMBY-PAMBY STUFF.


LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE...
...AND ROLK'N' ROLL.
DO RIGHT
DO RIGHT


NOW FOR CHETLY.
WHO I'VE NOT FORGOTTEN.
AND WHO I OWE A VISIT...
...IN RETURN FOR HIS AUDACITY...
...THINKING HE COULD FOLLOW ME...
AND PUNISH ME.

NOT REALIZING THAT I SET THE RULES ALL ALONG.
AND THAT IDA IS NOTHING MORE THAN PROTOPLASM...
EYES FOR ME, THE GOD OF THE RAZOR.
"AND NOTHING MORE.
WHAT THE--?!
AND NOW, CHETLY, I'M COMING TO VISIT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.

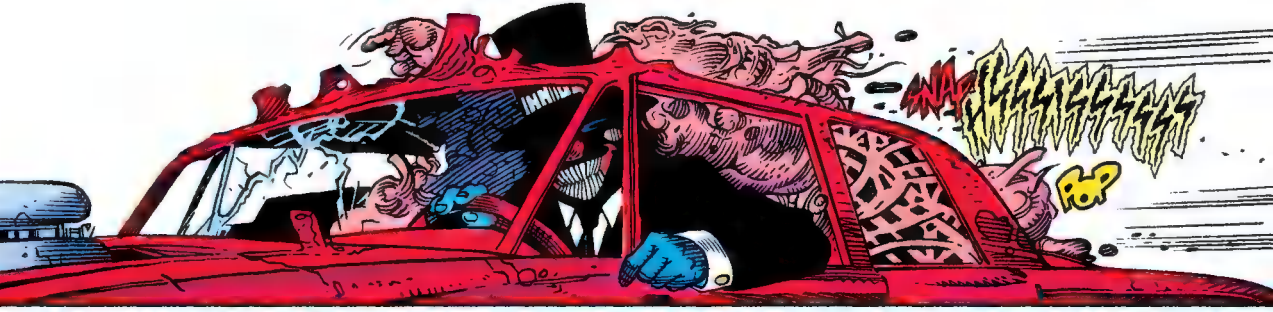
I HOPE YOU'LL BE GLAD TO SEE ME.
GODDAMN! NOW I'VE SEEN SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
NO. NOT YET. THAT'S...
"...COMING... AND I'LL MAKE IT A VERY...
"...SPECIAL MOMENT.
SNAP
POP
HISSSS
DO RIGHT
1. READ RIGHT
2. THINK RIGHT
3. ACT RIGHT
4. BE RIGHT

SPECIAL MOMENT?
...WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
IT MEANS YOU WON'T LIKE IT.
HEY, WATCH YOUR ASS!
SHUT UP!
LOBBY, PLEASE.
1
B
HEY, DON'T DO THAT. THAT'S NASTY.
NOW, WHO IN THE HELL'S COMING?
34

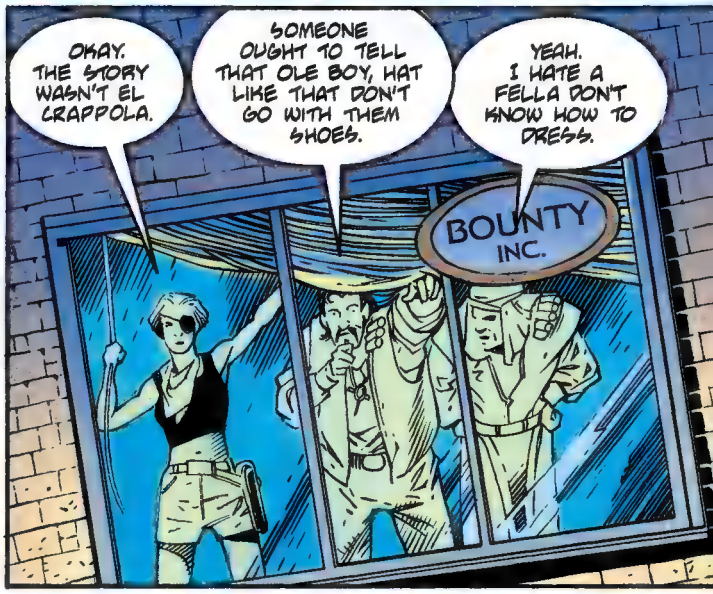
DAKOTA BOY
BAM
BAM
BAM
DAKOTA BOY

HEY!
THAT'S MY...
...CAR.
LONG
LONG
uhm...
SO I GUESS YOU'LL BE NEEDING...
...THESE.

ALL RIGHT, GANG, LET'S RIDE.
KRAKLE
HSSSSS
KVA
KOP
THAT'S SOME STORY, SUN TAN, AND MOST OF IT SOUNDS LIKE EL CRAPPO BUT--
--RECKON IF OLE RAZOR FELLA SHOWS UP, WE'LL PUT A DENT OR TWO IN HIM.
CA-CHINK!
IT'S NOT YOUR FIGHT.
NO. BUT I KINDA LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
YEAH, I ONLY LIKE TO GO SO LONG WITHOUT SHOOTIN' SOMEBODY.
BAD SOMEBODIES, OF COURSE.
CLICK


SNAP
KKSSSSSSSS
POP

Thirty minutes later.


OKAY. THE STORY WASN'T EL CRAPPOLA.
SOMEONE OUGHT TO TELL THAT OLE BOY, HAT LIKE THAT DON'T GO WITH THEM SHOES.
YEAH. I HATE A FELLA DON'T KNOW HOW TO DRESS.
BOUNTY INC.

HOLD HIM TILL SUNUP. WE GOT A CHANCE.

NO PROBLEM.

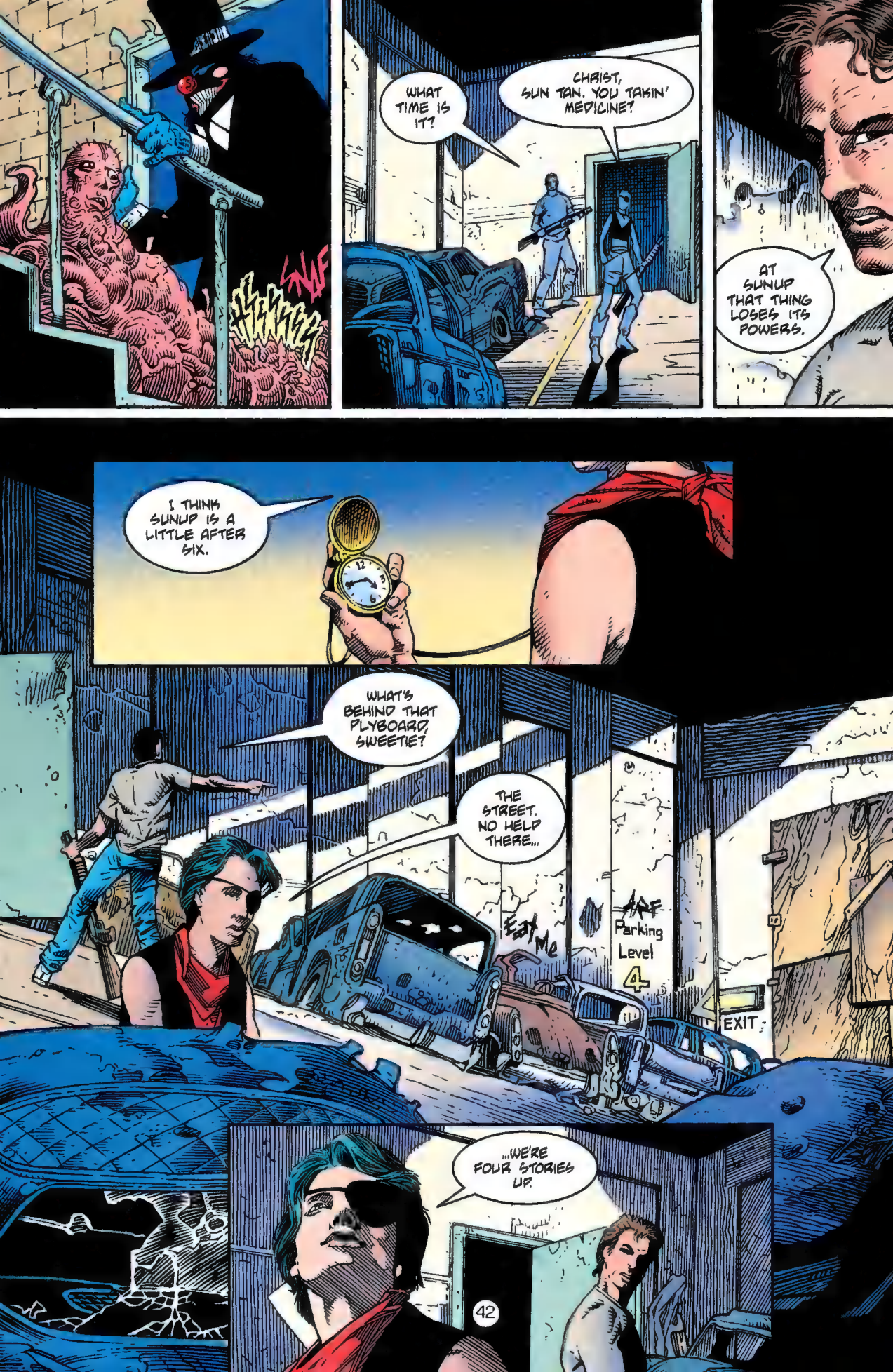
CHETLY, I'M HERE.
SLRRRRRRRRR

COME TO POPPA, CHETLY. COME TO POPPA!

OKAY, MAYBE SUNUP WILL BE A PROBLEM.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, SUN TAN.
IT AIN'T OUR FIGHT.
TOO LATE NOW.
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
RUN LIKE A SPOTTED ASS APE. HE AIN'T STOPPIN'.
BAM
BAM

THIS ONE'S FOR BRUCEY.
KA-BLAM
SPLORCH
THIS ONE'S FOR ME.

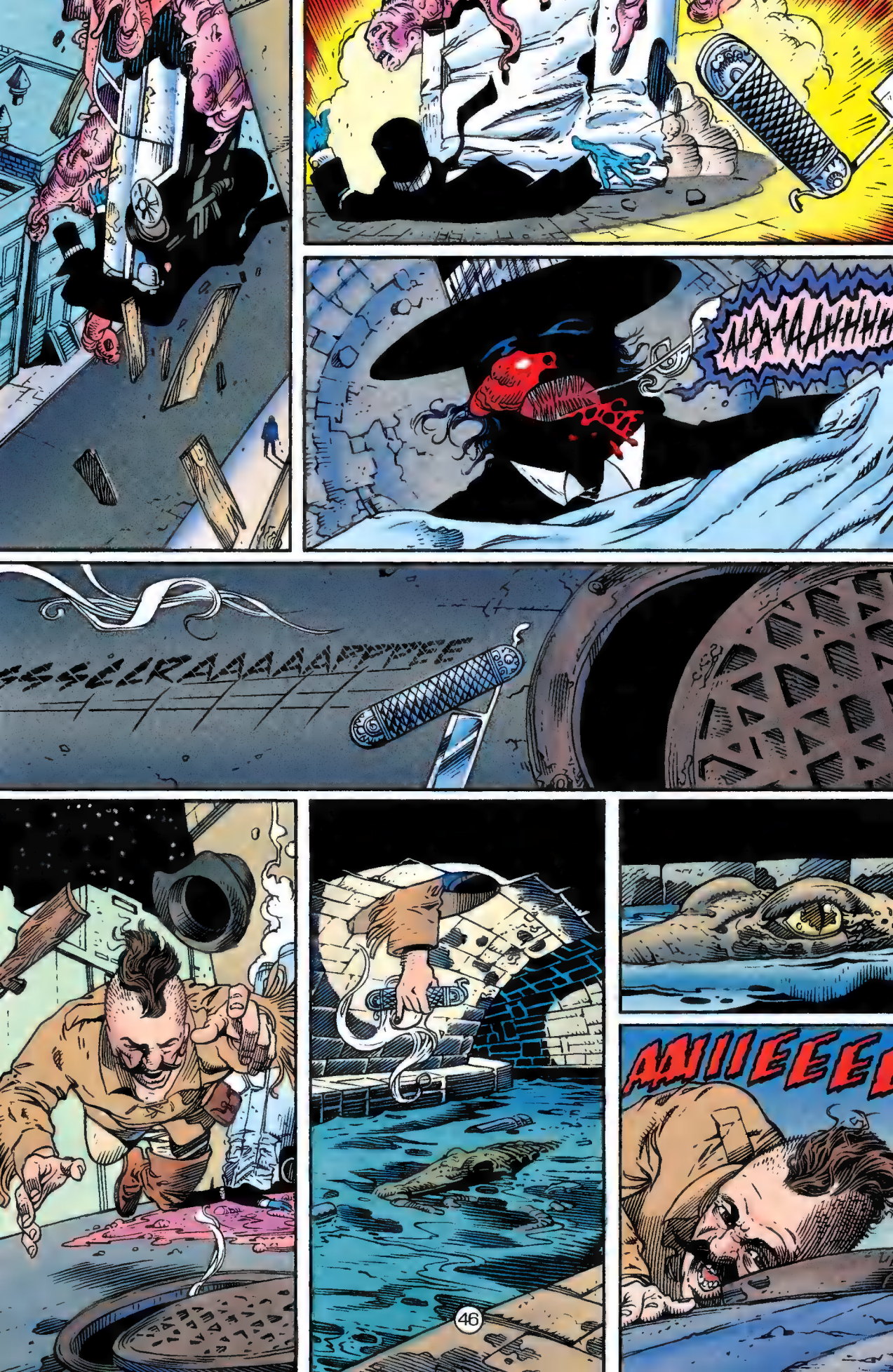
BLAM BLAM
1 OUTTA HERE
CLANG
THUMP THUMP
SCRRT SCRRT
SCREEEE
BLAM


WHAT TIME IS IT?
CHRIST, SUN TAN. YOU TAKIN' MEDICINE?
AT SUNUP THAT THING LOSES ITS POWERS.
I THINK SUNUP IS A LITTLE AFTER SIX.
WHAT'S BEHIND THAT PLYBOARD, SWEETIE?
THE STREET. NO HELP THERE...
Eat Me
Parking Level 4
EXIT
...WE'RE FOUR STORIES UP.

COME AND GET IT, CREEP.
BLAM BLAM

NOW!
CHUNK
PRNDL

WHUMP
BOUNTY


AAAAAHHHH
AIIEEE

IT'S OVER, SUN TAN.
SUUBER SIGNS & WEAPONS
MAYBE...
...AND...
...MAYBE NOT...

AND IT WILL CALL THIS MAD WORLD HOME.

Chet Daly has hunted across time and space with one purpose burning in what's left of his soul: to kill the immortal monster known as the God of the Razor. Chet knows that his quest against the vicious creature might well lead to his own horrible death, but he will not and cannot stop. He has lost his love, his home and most of his sanity, but Chet Daly will have his revenge.

But in this time-lost lunatic future where life is cheap and death is free, the lord of the blade can rule supreme. Dredged out of its inter-dimensional realm by a crazed band of death-worshipping cultists, the gore-hungry thing is welcomed to a world tailor-made for ravishing. In this insane place and time, it is completely at home — and utterly powerful.

Chet will have his final showdown aided only by a one-eyed bounty named Sweetie. Together they'll face off against all the mystic savagery of the ages-old God of the Razor... and blood will flow like water.

Best-selling horror and suspense novelist Joe R. Lansdale and acclaimed artist Mark A. Nelson join their prodigious talents to bring you this shocking tale of love, vengeance and deadly horror.

Suggested for mature readers

SPECIAL DELIVERY

D'ARGH-EMPIRE